

(A)

Eric assessed the tallgrass prairie ecosystem with an open mind.

"To the undiscerning eye, there's not much to see," he declares.

Eric was an executive with CN Rail before his retirement. He and a sister bought the house he currently resides in with daughter Linda vanWill when another

brother Jim married and bought out brother Eric and Clarence.

Jim McKague's son D'Arcy is operating the Cramahe Township farm that has been within the family since 1875.

Eric married Margaret Richards of Warkworth. When Eric retired from CN Rail, he and Margaret moved to the Castleton home. Margaret passed away in 1985. Today, Eric lives in the home with daughter Linda McKague van Mill.

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In 1822, John and Jane McKague emigrated from County Cavan in Ireland to Cherry Hill, a small settlement east of Baltimore. There, they

raised eight children. It is believed the direct-to-Canada contingent meshed with other family members who came to Canada at the same time as United Empire Loyalists receiving land grants.

Initially, the Cherry Hill homestead was a log home, later replaced by a larger, finished home.

One of the earliest photos Linda and sister Clara have garnered shows William, son of the John and Jane, standing in the garden of the Cherry Hill homestead with his wife Elizabeth Coyle McKague.

There's a lovely family story about the initial meeting of William and Elizabeth.

"John went to the McGregor farm on an errand and when he arrived, there was Elizabeth stomping on laundry in a tub in the front yard. She had her skirts hitched up around her waist and apparently that was it for William."

Elizabeth was reputed to have been quite acrobatic and a very accomplished rider. Another family story relates she was riding a horse while carrying eggs for market when the horse suddenly shied.

"It is said she flipped off the horse and landed on the ground without breaking an egg," Linda relates.

William and Elizabeth had 10 children.

Two of their sons, George and Robert, together brought a farm in Cramahe Township in 1875. Robert McKague (grandson of the original settler and great grandfather of Linda

Continued on Page 3

(B)

The fifth generation

One of the very few McKague family artifacts that survived from the original 1822 settlement in Canada was a horn brought to Canada by John and Jane McKague in 1922. The horn was used by the McKagues at Cherry Hill, east of Baltimore where they first settled, to call the men from the fields.

Above, the late Ethel Maud McKague is shown blowing the horn in 1968. Ethel's brother Eric, currently residing in Castleton, donated the horn other memorabilia to Barnum House museum. When the family asked to borrow the horn for the upcoming August 14 family reunion at Castleton, they were told the horn and several other items had been "stolen" from the museum sometime between 1992 and 1999.

All photos courtesy of Linda McKague van Will

for information, and invariably we get a response. For example, someone in Iowa was able to identify people in a photo because her grandmother's photo album had the same photo and she had written all the names on the back."

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The McKague genealogy is about to become a website on the Internet. The site, its first page already posted at the address "mckague.com",

will give a complete roster of the family tree.

Adding special depth to the information is the inclusion of photos of individuals (where found) and group and scenic shots compiled.

"The Macintosh program "Reunion" has been absolutely marvellous," notes Linda. Her sister Carla has been spearheading the data base collection.

For PC users, the equivalent program is "Generations". With the information entered, whole files have been merged, sorted and demystified.

Continued from Page 2

and Clara) married Caroline Eagleson. The couple had six children.

One son, John Bruce, married Lena McGregor. John and Lena had eight children: Wilfrid, Ethel, Florence, Leila, Doris and Jim. All are alive today but for Clarence, Wilfrid and Ethel. It is Jim's son D'Arcy who currently owns and operates Longview, the McKague Cramahe Township farm, on Morganston Road.

Son Eric McKague, currently residing in Castleton, married Margaret (d 1985) Richards of Warkworth. There are three children: Carla, Linda and Rick.

continent," Linda says.

She and sister Carla have amassed a veritable treasure trove of stories, history and memorabilia - including an estimated 2,500 photos.

"The remarkable thing is that only 12 photos or so of all those photos cannot be identified," says Linda. "We put the mug shots up on the internet, put out there

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"We estimate there are 2,300 descendants of the two original settlers located all over the

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